Reyes assures jittery Japanese execs on kidnappings

Story on Page A3

A year of booboos and royal scandals



PARIS—Blunders, errors, faux pas and good old-fashioned scandals were hardly in short supply in 2003.

In politics, royal, diplomatic and even sporting circles, the year threw up enough

A YEAR /A12

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Sunday

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WHAT'S INSIDE

Bro. Eddie: From activist to preacher to president?

By Blanche S. Rivera

EDUARDO Villanueva, 57, a new personality in the world of politics, has been primed for the presidential contest for the past 30 years.

Villanueva—popularly known as Bro. Eddie, the founder and spiritual director of the Jesus is Lord Church Worldwide—has been an activist all his life, having first organized the masses for a nationalist democratic revolution only to turn around and gather them instead for Jesus.

He traces his roots to Bulacan where he was raised by comfortably well-off entrepreneurial parents, and where he himself has raised his four children with his wife Dory.

Eldest son Eddie Jr. is the mayor of Bocaue while another other son, Joel, sits in

BRO. EDDIE /A4



FOUR DAYS TO CHRISTMAS

Look what's up in lights. 101 dalmatians in front of Glorietta, a sight for dog-tired shoppers caught in the holiday crush.

Slides kill 70 in S. Leyte

AT A GLANCE



14 dead in landslide disaster in Surigao City

By Joni Arnais and Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

LILOAN, Southern Leyte—A pre-Christmas disaster hit three villages in two neighboring coastal towns Friday night, with huge mounds of mud, earth and debris descending on local residents in a swirl of water.

As of last count, about 70 persons including children were reported dead, authorities said. Only about 50 have been manually unearthed alive.

The number of those killed is still expected to rise because as many as 83 residents are believed to have been trapped in piles of mud in Barangay Poblacion in Liloan and Barangays Punta and Cassi in San Francisco.

The landslide occurred at around 10 p.m. when most of the residents were asleep, according to Michael Napallacan of Barangay Poblacion. At least 300 residents did not know what hit them until it was too late.

The earth and mud were believed loosened by six days of continuous rain brought on by an inter-tropical convergence zone and a low-pressure area spotted in Mindanao.

A similar disaster struck a mountainside village in Surigao City on Friday morning, killing at least 14 persons, including two babies. This figure brought to 18 the total number of fatalities in the days of incessant rain in the Caraga region.

Surigao Mayer Alfonso Casurra said yesterday that only the bodies of the babies and five others had been dug out of the mud that covered Sitio Kinabutan in Barangay Rizal.

In Southern Leyte, Gov. Rosette Lerias said six bodies had been taken to the municipal hall of Liloan. She said it was difficult to travel by land because piles of earth were blocking the roads leading to the two affected towns.

The Inquirer was able to get through to Liloan past 5 p.m. yesterday.

Liloan and San Francisco—both located on Panaon Island which is connected to mainland Leyte by the Liloan Bridge—are 38 kilometers apart. Liloan

SLIDES /A11

Survivors saved by trees they didn't cut

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Her family would have been buried alive, but for the trees.

Speaking yesterday on radio from her home in Barangay Poblacion, Liloan, Southern Leyte, Ruby Almogueira, said she was thankful for the gmelina and mahogany trees that protected her home from the avalanche of earth, mud and debris that wrought havoc on the lives of four of her neighbors.

"Salamat sa Diyos, nagpapasalamat ako [illegible] ang landslide [illegible] Wala ang mga kahoy, [illegible] ang grasya ng Diyos (By the grace of God, the trees blocked the landslide. If not for these trees, we would have been hit)," Almogueira said over station dyLA based in this city.

At least 15 to 20 houses were spared from the landslide, but their occupants were evacuated to the Liloan municipal hall and gymnasium.

The landslide covered five houses,

SURVIVORS /A11

Libya agrees to give up WMDs after secret talks

WASHINGTON—Libya, long a pariah on the world stage, has acknowledged attempts to develop weapons of mass destruction and pledged to renounce them, the United States and Britain said.

In nearly joint surprise announcements late Friday, the American and British leaders said Libyan leader Col. Moammar Gadhafi has agreed, after nine months of secret diplomacy with Washington and London, to renounce all weapons of mass destruction and "immediately and unconditionally" welcome international inspectors.

The announcement could pave the way for the lifting of US sanctions against Libya, imposed in the wake of the 1988 Lockerbie bombing of a Pan Am airliner, which was carried out by Libyan agents and turned the north African state into a virtual pariah in the West.

Washington and Tripoli have not had diplomatic relations since 1981, and Libya remains under US sanctions over the December 1988 Lockerbie bombing, which left 270 people dead.

The United Nations lifted its sanctions

LIBYA /A2

Miss Saigon producer patron of Pampanga artists

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

STA. RITA, Pampanga—Sir Cameron Mackintosh, the man who gave the big break to Lea Salonga and several Filipino artists to shine on the West End and on Broadway, is also a patron of a performing arts troupe based in this rustic town once devastated by the Mt. Pinatubo eruption.

The producer of acclaimed international musicals such as "Cats," "Les Miserables," "Phantom of the Opera," "Miss Saigon" and "Oliver" gave a "generous grant" to the ArtiSta. Rita through the Cameron Mackintosh Foundation.

Andy Alviz, founder and chair of the ArtiSta. Rita Foundation Inc., linked the fledgling troupe to Mackintosh.

Alviz, 40, was a resident choreographer in the Asia run of Miss Saigon.

"The Knight believed in local talents," Alviz said, as he gushed over the talented Mackintosh who at age 8 already wanted to be a musical producer.

In 1995, Mackintosh's company received the Queen's Award for Export Achievement. Mackintosh was knighted in 1996 for his services to British theater.

ArtiSta. Rita is composed of 58 talented Kapampangans aged 14 to 60.

Although its members come from various professions and are busy with their work or studies, they all consider themselves professional performing artists.

"They live their art," Alviz said.

The nine children in the group excel in their art, just like their adult counterparts.

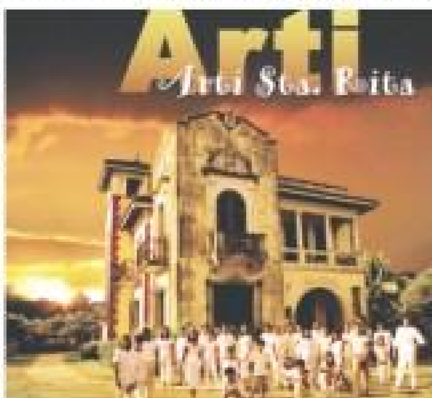
Aaron and Ariane Sembrano, Kolot and MacMac Pineda, Dingdong Manalo, Kelvin David, Joe Cuenco, Jean and Chloe Fernandez have been exposed to the discipline and professional conduct of humble artists.

Alviz said this kind of training at an early age could help produce more world-class Filipino artists.

There are three priests in the group: Fathers Francisco Lansang, Jeremy Canyanangan and Ben Guanlao. They do translation work and play the violin.

Through Mackintosh's grant and the support of local donors, the ArtiSta. Rita was able to produce its

MISS /A2



THANKS to a believer in the Filipino as a world-class talent, artists in rustic Sta. Rita, Pampanga, are set to launch the first album of Kapampangan songs.

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FrontPage

Reyes assures Japanese auto execs of security



3 stranded OFWs home soon—DOLE

Military admits MNLF role in Robot capture

No help at all

Europeans grateful

Extradite Andang

Release Misuari



Amnesty not for me, says Erap

Impatient Barbers threatens to bolt Lakas for Roco camp

MAKATI MED OPENS CLINIC IN ALI MALL



The facade of the satellite clinic at the third level of Araneta Shopping Center, Ali Mall.





THE DAILY GOSPEL

SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

Freed soldier blames pols for Maguindanao violence

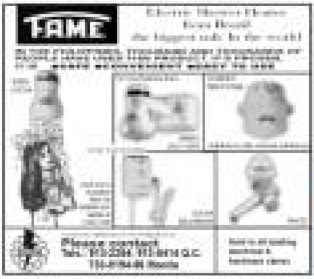
By Charlie Señase

Tough-talking NPA is mama's boy at heart

Another Cabinet member resigns

Kalinga tops hybrid rice producers; end to imports seen

GMA, Bulakeños honor Ople









Nothing wrong with Bro. Eddie running–Enrile



VILLANUEVA

Libya agrees to give up WMDs after secret talks

To welcome inspection

To cancel sanctions

Miss Saigon producer patron of Pampanga arts

World-class rendition

Pride

Abundant talent

Bro. Eddie: From activist to preacher to president?

On AFP wanted list

In hiding

Pivotal point

Return to the hills

JIL core group

God-factor

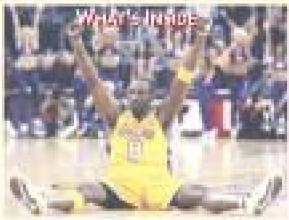
Righteous leadership

NSAS' REQUEST

House to probe SEAG performance

By Marc Anthony Reyes

GOOD or bad, the Vietnam Southeast Asian Games campaign will have to be scrutinized by the Congress.





PBA council of elders eyed to solve problems

League has ₱349-M uncollected TV debts

The WORLD

Saddam betrayed by right hand man—US major



What about Karadzic, Mladic in Balkans?



PEACE PRAYERS

India welcomes Pakistan offer to junk call for Kashmir poll

France, Japan compete for $10-B nuclear reactor



AUSTRONESIAN SPIRIT

Iraq's crushing debt: Why did the West lend so much to Saddam?

UN: 4 million N. Koreans could lose food aid



US jury awards undocumented worker

Tears, fury at sentencing of young sniper

Seoul confirms spread of bird flu infections



Scientist got SARS from lab, says Taiwan

US doctor jailed for lowering cancer drug doses

INQUIRER OPINION



The candidates

EDITORIAL

Uncertain victory

FOREIGN COMMENT

Yuletide thoughts

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

Present?

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

'Pip' and Amin score for the Armed Forces

Reveille



Ramon J. Farolan

25 years of Jollibee

At Large



Rina Jimenez-David

Faith in new beginnings

Public Lives



Randy David

Presidential aspirants

Commentary

Raul J. Palabrica

Qualifications

Experience

Responsibility

TALK *of the* TOWN

What's your Christmas wish?

THE CHRISTMAS season is a time for gift giving. It's no longer gold, frankincense and myrrh that the Three Wise Men from the East presented to the infant born in a manger in Bethlehem more than two millennia ago. Because almost everything now is commercialized, the gifts of the modern "magi" are bought at the tiangge, at malls or even on the Internet. Seldom does one make the presents for his kith and kin.

Because of technology, greeting a friend or a loved one in another province, city or time zone has also changed. It used to be done by sending Christmas cards or by placing a call. Now, it can be done through texting, or by sending e-mail. The delivery system has changed but the idea of warming one's heart has remained the same.

The Yuletide season is also a time for hope. It's a time for wishing that something better would come one's way. What one wishes for is oftentimes a function of his or her station in life. For the unemployed Filipinos, who are in the millions, their wish is to find work or the means to support themselves. The wish of Riza Plaza, who was left by her husband, is to have a small capital so she could start a business and support her eight children. For a country officer of a multinational bank, it is to lose weight so he can drive his dream sports car.

There are wishes that are common to Filipinos of different social classes, though. These are peace and happiness.



Happiness

Holiday with family

Peace

Lotto

Health

Pair of shoes, new clothes

A job, capital

Computer, bike, P1 million

Simple joys

Weight loss, peaceful polls

Prosperity

Luzon cops get big role vs kidnaps





Garbage dump tagged blessing in disguise

Anti-smuggling campaign shifts focus to Mindanao





RP 5 turns back Hong Kong, rules China cagefest

Viva keeps PBL semis hopes alive

Welcoat retains solo lead



SAMSUNG TOUR

Bondoc nips Aunzo in Eastridge playoff

SPORTSWATCH

Que falters with 81 in Okinawa tilt

A-Rod deal dead, say Boston Red Sox

'Noche Buena' derby set Dec. 27, 29

Fistorama features Cebu boxer

PBA council . . .

Cebu ready to host 6 SEAG disciplines



Jungolf Xmas bash at Riviera tomorrow



EXODUS

[illegible]

RIGHTS GROUP REPORT

Villagers' hardships blamed on NPA, Army

[illegible]

Mindanao's 1st dialysis center opens

[illegible]

Senator-ad models blamed for high medicine costs

[illegible]

Opponents of coal-fired plant get death threats

[illegible]

Monument in Batangas town stirs controversy, scandal

[illegible]

World Bank impressed with Mindanao development plans

[illegible]

Mayor of Cebu City given title of sultan

[illegible]



ANTI-JUETENG AWARD

[illegible]

INQUIRER Mindanao

A dream come true in Kidawa



UNDETERRED by the lack of instructional materials, a teacher at the Kidawa National High School presses ahead with the day's lesson.



Teacher volunteers

NPA stronghold

Developing school

House Bill 5671

So what if FPJ is running for President?

DUGONG MINDANAW







Slides kill 70 in S. Leyte

With bare hands

Brownout

Only 2 choppers available

Valedictorian

Agusan River

Troops mobilized to help

Survivors saved ...

Premonition

Last word

Another lost daughter

Memories of Ormoc

A year of booboos and royal scandals

Strangest of all

Gaffe-prone PM

'Mentally deranged'

Russian flag

METRO

HOLIDAY SHOPPING BLUES

Police: If you have nothing to do, stay home



A POLICE unit on patrol in Makati

By Luige del Puerto and Tina Santos

Car-towing company faces raps from cop

Quack doctor gets 4 years in prison



By Philip Tubeza

WPD chief tells men: Try not to look like criminals

YOUTH TECH

Pasig City public schools go online



STUDENTS of Rizal High School Rosario Annex get to surf the Net.



BIR trains guns on 'cracker makers

Beware of drunk drivers, say cops

'Pacquiao' packs them in at the Malabon zoo







In Manila, days of 'Eddie' and 'Patty' are over

Cop accused of pouring hot water on inmates

Oreta anti-piracy bill to criminalize digital piracy

Correction

Banking's loss is little kids' gain

By Margie Quimpo-Espino



HELEN graduated magna cum laude in AB Economics from UP Diliman.

Menial tasks



HELEN and husband TG with their kids at Dreamworld in Bangkok. Children's names are Regina, Andrea and Patricia.



DUMBO one of Little Gym's events.



TG and Helen at the New York Metropolitan Museum.

Break

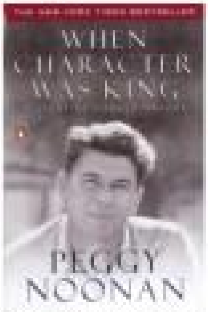
FIRST JOB

Banking's loss . . .

Going on her own

One who mastered fiction in film used truth as the best weapon

EXECUTIVE READ



Turning nature's rejects into export items

Dayami

Start

Orders

Production



Yearlong

Problem

Corporate fashion for men these holidays

FOR men who like to look good—and that should be all of them—the holiday season is as good a time as any to get all spruced up. [illegible]

Office attire in particular doesn't have to be lacking in holiday cheer. Here are a few rules of thumb for corporate men [illegible]

[illegible]

Key consideration [illegible]

The photos show ways by which a man's basic shirt can be dressed up or down through the use of accessories.



YOUNGER and trendier. [illegible]



THE classic young: [illegible]



YOUNG fashionable daywear office look. [illegible]

[illegible]

In general, the holiday or fall/winter look is characterized by richer and darker colors, as compared to the lighter, more casual look of summer.



FOR the [illegible] man. [illegible]



MIX and match. Light colored shirt with silver tie; light blue shirt with navy silk necktie [illegible]



THE CLASSIC young look. [illegible]



CLASSIC look or toned down look, mature and "tone on tone" look. [illegible]

Sunday LifeStyle

Jingle jangle white



NOBODY ushers in Christmas like Gift Gate's Virgie Ramos. Take it from us—nobody.

Oh what fun!

Complete with snowflakes falling and bells

ENGAGEMENT

The engagement is announce between LANCE HEWETT of Bridgetown, Western Australia & MARISOL R. PAPA of Quezon City, Philippines from December 12, 2003.





LAST CALL. The Swatch Christmas Special 2003 Jingle Jangle watch is up for raffle on Dec. 24, 12 noon at the Swatch Store in Glorietta 4.



STARPOINT by Swatch Bijoux is the perfect backdrop for star director Rowell Santiago.



BELL RINGERS Tweetie de Leon Gonzales and Annette Coronel

Jingle jangle white

Swatch watching



KISS is cuter, or should we say Calma for Rosy and Ed?



BABIES IN WONDERLAND. Kiddie guests admire the huge Christmas tree decorated all in white by [illegible]



DAWN Zulueta admiring the Jingle Jangle limited edition Swatch watch with detachable reindeer



AND the winner is... Anton San Diego shows off his glass tree trophy by Impy Pilapil.

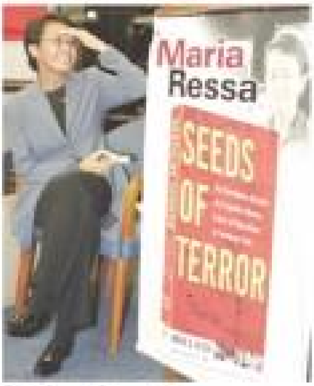


'PLENTY' moment for the kids with [illegible] Martin.



[illegible] Zobel Jr. points at a poster of the Swatch [illegible]

Sunday LIFESTYLE



Is Megawati Sukarno an intelligent interview? Do you wanna get me in trouble? (Laughter)

Maria Ressa, reporting live . . .

PLAYTIME

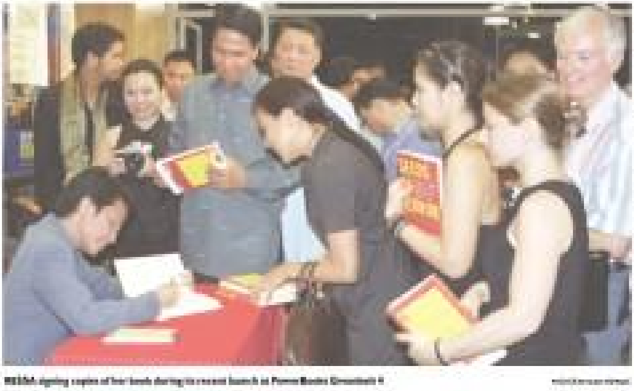
By the Staff

QUIZ question: If Maria Ressa had not become the most visible Filipino face on CNN, what would she have become: a) musician; b) microbiologist; c) medical doctor; d) theater artist; or e) all of the above?

Maria Ressa, reporting live . . .

'Working with CNN has been the most amazing thing. It's a front seat to history. If you name any event in Southeast Asia in the last 10 years, I was there'

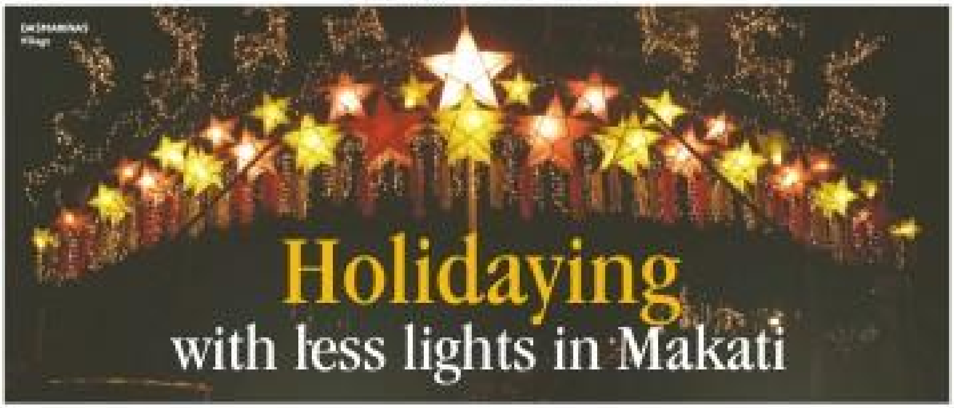




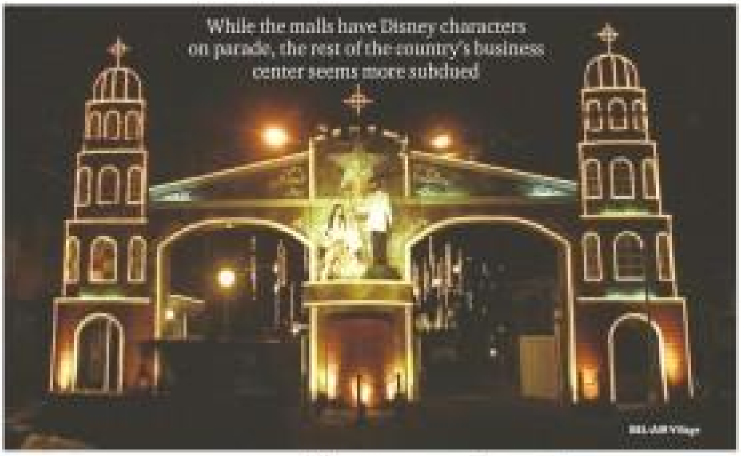
Maria Ressa, reporting live . . .

'In the end we need the United States in the war on terrorism as much as the US needs the rest of the world'





Holidaying with less lights in Makati



While the malls have Disney characters on parade, the rest of the country's business center seems more subdued

Text by [illegible]
Photos by [illegible]

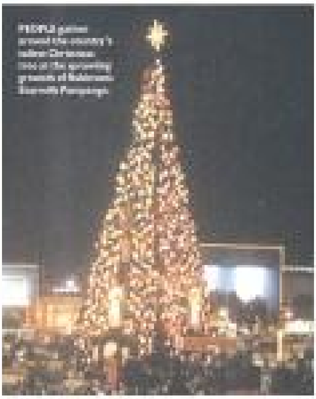
IN THIS season of cheers, Makati, the country's central business district, has once again chosen to conservatively dress the city streets and structures, brightening up alleys and buildings only with sporadic streams of Tivoli lights.

[illegible]





Country's tallest Christmas tree lights up



PEOPLE gather around the country's tallest Christmas tree at the sprawling grounds of Robinsons Starmills Pampanga.

THE COUNTRY'S tallest Christmas tree, measuring 117 feet, was officially lighted during a special event staged at the sprawling grounds of Robinsons Starmills Pampanga.

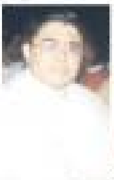
This magnificent display brightened up the night sky when local officials, as well as Robinsons Malls and Coke representatives, switched on the thousands of lights that decked the giant tree.

A mini concert featuring the country's youngest diva, Kyla, together with 17:36, regaled the audience with their Christmas renditions. The event was capped with a fireworks display.

A joint collaboration with Coke, this Christmas tree can be viewed by the public until Jan. 6, 2004.



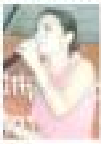
RLC Commercial Centers general manager [illegible] and Miss Robinsons [illegible] did the honor of switching on the thousands of lights that decked the giant tree.



CITY tourism officer Ivan Henares



RLC Commercial Centers officials [illegible]



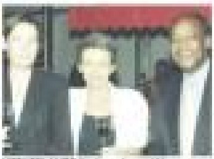
A mini concert featuring Kyla entertained the audience.



PAPAL Nuncio Antonio Franco, Belgian Ambassador Christiaan Tanghe and Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Delia Albert



NENA Villanueva and German Ambassador Herbert Jess



NETHERLANDS Ambassador and Mme. Robert Vornis and French Ambassador Renee Veyret



AMBASSADOR Enrique and Lady Sypula

Christmas concert caps ambassador's intimate soirées

Diplomatic Swirl

By Amigo

THERE they all were, sitting pretty in their seats, casually chic as the predominant mode of dressing required these days, applauding pianist Nena Villanueva.

[illegible]

Welcoming a new wine

[illegible]



KOREAN Ambassador Son Sang-ho, Inquirer chair Marixi Prieto and Alex Prieto.



KOREAN Pastor Shin Hee-won, Han Hyang-wook (wife of the Korean ambassador), Lisa Huisha and Kwon Eun-young



LE Club president Philippe Gauthier; club director Christian Pequignot; past president Louis-Paul Heussaff and club VP Louis Yergeau

[illegible]

Foundation's anniversary

[illegible]

King's Day

[illegible]



THAI Ambassador and Sri Lankan Ambassador

Korean dinner

[illegible]

Canada brings a raft of riches

Cebu Cebu



Jaime Picornell

THE EMBASSY of Canada and the Arts Council of Cebu presented Canadian pianist Stephen Hunt in a recital held at the Sinulog ballroom of the City Sports Club.

[illegible]

> The past days have seen a flurry of stimulating cultural activities courtesy of this city's many Canadian friends

[illegible]



CANADIAN pianist Stephen Hunt flanked by Canada's honorary consul in Cebu, Robert Lee, and his wife Anna

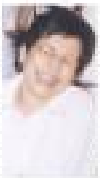


APRIL Mary Tiulfud and Richard Ramos at the grand staircase of Laguna Garden.

[illegible]



Jingle jangle . . .



[illegible] —would you be any [illegible]?—Mandarin Oriental. Swatch [illegible] with prizes for guests who were wearing very specific Swatch-es.

[illegible] for wearing the most coordinated get-up, as her wrist was a black-and-white Swatch [illegible] which matched her white top and black trousers. [illegible]

The [illegible] prize, the Jingle Jangle Swatch special 2003 Christmas watch, went to [illegible].

All in all, it was a [illegible] launch for two [illegible] limited edition Swatch products. [illegible] Jingle Jangle watches will be made available in the local market. They will be raffled off [illegible] to people who buy Swatch during the holiday season period.

Every P[illegible] purchase of a Swatch watch, Swatch Bijoux or Flik Flak watch at any participating store entitles one to a raffle coupon. The raffle draw is on Dec. [illegible] at the Swatch Store in [illegible], Makati City.

Additional prizes include [illegible] Swatch watches and [illegible] Flik Flak watches.

What [illegible] will think of doing next Christmas is anybody's guess but, for sure, it will be something [illegible] and bright. — [illegible]



[illegible]